

## **MINUTES**

(Subject to approval by the electors of the Kingston Fire District at the Annual Meeting of May 4, 2015)

### **KINGSTON FIRE DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING, KINGSTON FIRE STATION, KINGSTON, R.I. MAY 5, 2014**

**Call to Order:** Moderator Valerie Maier-Sperdelozzi called the Kingston Fire District Annual Meeting of May 5, 2014 to order at 7:02 p.m. at the Kingston Fire Station, 35 Bills Road, Kingston, RI. She noted that sixteen (16) qualified electors were in attendance, as confirmed in the 2013 Tax Roll for the District that was located by the attached sign in sheet. Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi declared that a quorum was present.

#### **AGENDA (SEE HANDOUT)**

**MOTION:** Donald Cobb moved to accept the Agenda as presented. Ina Sciabarrasi seconded the motion. There was no further discussion on the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES OF 2013 (SEE HANDOUT)**

**MOTION:** Donald Cobb moved to accept the Minutes as presented. Ina Sciabarrasi seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any questions. There were none. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **CHIEFS' REPORT (SEE HANDOUT)**

**MOTION:** Donald Cobb moved to accept the Chiefs' Report as presented. Elizabeth McNab seconded the motion.

Chief Nathan Barrington gave a summary of his report Deputy Chief Reed's report and Deputy Chief DeGrave's report.

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any questions. There were none.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT (SEE HANDOUT)**

**MOTION:** Vincent Rose moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Sandy Koerner seconded the motion.

Treasurer Carleen Lefebvre presented the Treasurer's report. She gave a brief review of the report noting that the District has expended One Hundred Nineteen Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Two (\$119,872) Dollars of the approved amount of One Hundred Twenty Three Thousand ((\$123,000) Dollars from Capital Projects. The District has expended Five Hundred Thirty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Eight (\$539,988) Dollars (89%) of its annual budgeted amount of Six Hundred Four Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty (\$604,980) Dollars. Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any further questions. There were none.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT (SEE HANDOUT)**

**MOTION:** Vincent Rose moved to accept the Tax Collector's Report as presented. Leon Thiem seconded the motion.

Tax Collector Linda Mendillo presented the Tax Collector's Report. The Kingston Fire District tax roll, after abatements and additions for 2013, was Two Hundred Fifteen Thousand Seven Ninety Six 97/100 Dollars (\$215,796.97). The balance for 2013 is Seven Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Five 69/100 Dollars (\$7,355.69). To date, the District has collected 96.6% of the total amount for 2013. She did inform the tax payers that there currently are 4 properties up for tax sale. To date, the District has collected 99.2% of the total amount for 2012. To date, the District has collected 99.9% of the total amount for 2011. Dorald Beasley inquired about the total amount owed on properties that are up for tax sale. Mendillo explained that it isn't a lot but it is very effective in getting past due balances paid. In the past we have not gone to tax sale and have had properties 3 and 4 years in arrears, this eliminates that. We have not had to go to tax sale auction yet as the properties do get paid off. She has been in contact with the company that manages tax payment on these properties who will be notifying the mortgage holders. Beasley also inquired if the properties correspond with properties that do not pay Town property taxes. Maryanne Packer, who is the tax collector for the Town of South Kingstown, responded saying that they do not and in many cases the Town taxes are paid through the mortgage company from monies held in escrow. Mendillo also mentioned that if we do not go to tax sale and just let properties become in arrears for years we could lose the lien on the property and therefore, not be able to get payment.

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any further questions. There were none.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**MOTION:** Ina Sciabarrasi moved to accept the President's Report as presented. Sandra Koerner seconded the motion.

President Donald Cobb gave an oral report. He began by thanking everyone for the work they do for the District. He reiterated from the Chiefs reports how well we are doing on Recruitment and Retention for volunteer firefighters. However, he did call upon the tax payers to consider and contact their neighbors regarding open positions for District Officers, currently we are looking to fill two Tax Assessor positions and one Auditing Committee position. He also said the District is in good financial standing. Dorald Beasley did mention that his process for the tax assessment can be handled by one person and that he is putting together instructions on how it is done. The positions will be discussed at up-coming Wardens Meetings.

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any questions. There were none.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi stated that according to last year's minutes there were no motions tabled or carried forward to attend to at this year's meeting.

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there was any other official business under the category "Old Business". There was none.

### **2014-2015 BUDGET MOTION (SEE HANDOUT)**

Barrington presented the Budget. He started going over some of the changes to the budget line items and mentioned that they are dependent on the Resolutions that are listed to be passed under new business. It was requested that the Resolutions be reviewed as they will affect the budget. The resolutions were reviewed. There was brief discussion to clarify some line items. Barrington pointed out the line item for apparatus was lower in order to take advantage of not having to send the ladder truck out for annual maintenance since the new one is due to arrive in July 2014. Barrington also noted to the tax payers that the insurance cost may go up next year as we are in our final year of the current contract with the Southern League. The Training line item's increase is due to the fact that we are not taking advantage of many training opportunities out there and this will help in increasing the training level of the volunteer which in turn will benefit the public. Finally, he pointed out that under Recruitment and Retention we have implemented a Volunteer Incentive Plan to thank the volunteers. Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any further questions. There were none.

**MOTION:** Donald Packer moved to amend the Budget to reinstate the Chief's and Deputy Chief's salary to its previous amount. Increasing the budget by Six Thousand Five Hundred 00/100 Dollars (\$6,500.00) changing the total amount to Two Hundred Twenty Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Ten 00/100 Dollars (\$224,910.00). Donald Cobb seconded the motion. Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any further questions. There were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** Donald Packer moved the following Budget Motion: "I move that the budget be approved as amended, and that the Board of Wardens be directed to calculate the tax rate, based on the valuation of assessed property according to the South Kingstown Tax Assessor's rolls as of December 31, 2013 plus or minus five percent (5%), to account for differences in the tax base due to authorized abatements and additions to the tax roll throughout the tax year, so as to raise the amount of money specified in the budget to be raised by taxation." The motion was seconded by Donald Cobb. Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any further questions. There were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** Elizabeth McNab moved the following Motion: "I move that any surplus funds from fiscal year 2013-14 be transferred into the Capital Projects Fund in a manner consistent with existing policy." The motion was seconded by Sandy Koerner. Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any further questions. There were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** Donald Cobb moved the following Motion: "I move that the Wardens be authorized to spend up to Five Thousand 00/100 Dollars (\$5,000.00) from the Capital Projects Fund for unanticipated legal expenses for Fiscal Year 2014-15." The motion was seconded by Vincent Rose. Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any further questions. There were none. The motion carried unanimously.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT (SEE HANDOUT)**

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi recognized Leon Thiem, Chair of the Nominating Committee. Thiem said along with the other members of the Committee they recommend the nominations as provided.

**MOTION:** Leon Thiem moved to accept the Nomination Committee Report, as presented. Vincent Rose seconded the motion. Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any further questions. There were none. The motion, with changes, carried unanimously.

### **NOMINATIONS FROM FLOOR**

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any further nominations from the floor. There were none.

### **ELECTION**

**MOTION:** There being no further nominations or discussion, Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked for a vote to elect those individuals nominated in the Nominating Committee Report. Donald Packer moved and Leon Thiem seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **OTHER NEW BUSINESS (SEE HANDOUT):**

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked the electors to refer to the Resolutions to be approved under “Other New Business”

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked the electors to review the first resolution, Resolution for Emergency Contingent Fund for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

**MOTION:** Ina Sciabarrasi moved to accept the Resolution for Emergency Contingency Fund for Fiscal Year 2014-2015, as presented. Sandy Koerner seconded the motion. Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any questions. There were none. The motion carried unanimously.

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked the electors to review the second resolution, Resolution transfer of funds.

**MOTION:** Donald Cobb moved to accept the Resolution transfer of funds, as presented. Vincent Rose seconded the motion. Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any further questions. There were none. The motion carried unanimously.

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked the electors to review the third resolution, Resolution Fire Details Fund.

**MOTION:** Elizabeth McNab moved to accept the Resolution Fire Details Fund, as presented. Ina Sciabarrasi seconded the motion. Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked if there were any further questions. There were none. The motion carried unanimously.

Moderator Maier-Sperdelozzi asked the electors if there was anything else to be heard under “Other New Business” There was none.

**MOTION:** Vincent Rose moved to adjourn. Leon Thiem seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi Hall  
District Manager

Kingston Fire District (On behalf of Larry Fortin, District Clerk)